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¶ Imprinted at London for Thomas *Nelson*, 158[illegible]

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NEWES FROM Darnton.

Vpon Friday being the 7 daye of May last past 1585. betwæne 12. and one of the clock at nœne, in the Towne of *Darnton* within ỹ Bishopricke of *Durham*, there happened a most fierce and terrible fire as it had bene wildfire, which burned the most faireſt houſes in the Towne. And by ſundry perſons both of worſhip and good credit, it hath bæne throughly examined how and by what meanes this fire firſt began, whether by misfortune, wilful caſualtie, and ſuch other meanes, or els by the ſecrete prouidence of God, ſuffering the fire to fall from heauen, as is reported and beléeued by diuers, but according to the reporte of ſundry perſons, it began on this maner.

There

dwelling in the Towne of
Smith, who vppon the 7. day
day at foure of the clock in the mor-
ning, finding his forge on a fire with
straw cole and such other baggage, that
he had lefte there the other euening, did
at length queneh the same with water
which he had in the house, and loked so
narrowly therunto, that there could no-
thing be discerned, or no sparkes remai-
ning thereof left behind, and yet it could
not bee knowne howe it came on fire:
neuertheleſſe, some saide one thing, and
some another, but no other could bee
knowne but that it came by the secrete
appointment of God, and not by negli-
gent casualtie, as some imagined: which
being bruted abroad, many vsed speech
thereof, and called to minde the burning
of a house 16. yeares since in the same
Towne, which was afterward built a-
gaine. Thus sundry people continuing
in conference concerning the matter,
this great fire did burst out of a house
nothing neere vnto this Smith, nor in
that streete, but within one yard of the

house

house which was burned 6.
which was at *Skinners gate*, at
first fastened in a corner of ỳ house next
vnto that which was burnt long since,
not burning anie parte of the sayde
house at all, yea, the house doeth re-
main whole vntouched with fire, for af-
ter it had burnt the first house, the wind
carried it a quarter of a mile off, & there
it fyred other houses in great heate. And
by reason of the wind which was some-
thing boisterous, the fyre and the smoke
hindered the people for comming neare
it, so that in a shorte time the chiefest
houses in the Towne was set on a light
fyre: neyther came it (as some sup-
pose) by a wench which (as it is saide)
did fetch fyre into the house in a quanti-
tie of strawe, neither els by any other
course (as can yet be founde out) but by
the prouidence of God: and such was the
strange and sodaine course of the sayde
fire, that the people were sore frighted
therewith, and feared to haue perished
in the middest of the flame. It was very
pittifull to heare the lamentations of
many

ien and chil̃ren which came
wne the towne, some weeping
the losse of their goodes which they
sawe burning before their faces, some
praying for their frendes, some fearing
the death of their parents, some for their
children, and some for their husbands, in
which might be seen how many a thou-
sand did what they might to quench the
said fire, and to saue as well other mens
goods as their owne. But such was the
fiercenes therof, that one house fyred by
the heate of another, and did burne in
such vehement sort that they were fain
to cast their goods into the streete, and to
conuey much goodes forth behinde their
houses, neuertheless, there was much
goodes spoyled and burned, and a great
deale stollen, but specially that which
was laid on the backside of their houses,
for that was all burned. But when the
fire had gotten among the chiefe Mer-
cers houses in the Towne, it toke good
holde of Pitch, Tar, Rosen, Flax, Gun-
powder, and such like commodities, with
stackes of [illegible] and Barns
verie

Skinners gate and ceased not vntill it had burned 273. houses (as it is credibly reported) beside barns, stables, trees, stacks of hay and corne, wood, swines cotes, & much other fuell.

There was also at the same present *Richard Stantons* wife, and *Iohn Iohnsons* wife, both lying in child-bed, their Husbandes were of good wealth, and dwelling in the towne, and yet was the one of them carried into the fieldes, and the other removed to a poore womãs house in the Towne, otherwise they had bene both burned in their beds.

The house of M. *Ewry* beeing one of the faireſt in the Towne, was burned to the ground: and M. *Fraunces Oſwell* a merchant loſt by the ſaid fire a thouſãd pounds.

This Towne of *Darnton* ſtandeth diſtant 35. myles from *Yorke*, and before it was burned by the fury of this fierce fire, it was a Towne of good harbour for all trauellers to *Barwicke*, or from thence to *London*, and the ſpoile thereof is ſo great, that it is not able to receiue or entertaine

certaine the twentith part of the passen-gers which heretofore it hath receiued at an instant. It was a lamētable thing to heare the cry that was made on all sides, by men, women, and children that came running thither out of euery town and village abutting thereabout, being afraid that this fire begunne in *Darnton* would haue burned them shortly after in their houses, the flame whereof was seene in many a Towne, and so farre as to *Rosebury* top, which is 16. myles from the same Towne of *Darnton*: and as it is reported by sundry persons, it was seene much further.

It might haue made a stony hart to weepe, to see how fiersly the houses burned of the foreside, and the goodes on the backside, how the yong infants sucking at their mothers brests in rufull maner shrieked, & were greatly dismaied with the fury thereof. To conclude, the houses was past recouery within 2. houres after it begun, & the people were forced to leaue them burning, and to attende wholy vpon their goodes which they els

Might

might haue lost also: as they did a great deale: some spoiled, some filched, and a great deale burned, so that for certeintie there is not so little lost by the inhabitants of the towne, as 20000. pounds. Their greatest want was water which was far from them, except certain wels in the Towne which were drawne, but considering ỹ drought that was at that time, they yelded not such store of water as at other times they do: notwithstanding the people as fast as they might did fetch water frõ the riuer, and many spared not to cast their beere, ale, milke, and other licour to quench the same fire.

Thus haue you briefly heard the truth & maner therof, which was both strange & lamentable. God grant them patience to beare this crosse which he hath layde vpõ them: who, as as it hath pleased him to take it frõ them, if they cõtinue thankful with *Iob*, it is to be expected ỹ he will in respect of this worldly losse, increase them threefold, & reward them with heauenly gaine, which God graunt for his mercies sake, *Amen*.

FINIS.

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